He next pointed out that there was appreciable decrease of municipal revenue under taxes and scavenging fees in the wards within the fort, as the inhabitants who had been living in that ward left their houses and lived in other places on account of the insanitary condition of that locality and as the public offices were located at Thuckalai, which was a mile and a half from the Padmanabhapuram Fort. He requested that some of the public offices, *e.g.*, the Taluk office, the Sanketham cutcherry and the Sub-Registar's office might be removed to the vacant Government buildings within the fort. He submitted that, if his request was granted, not only would the revenue of the Municipality increase, but that the Government could also save a portion of the amount now spent on rent to buildings. The Member added that many of the tanks of Padmanabhapuram were the repositories of dirt and filth and that their timely restoration was not being attended to. In view of the great inconvenience the public of Thuckalai were put to for want of good water and in view of the inadequate financial resources of the Municipality, the Member requested that the tanks in the town might be properly maintained by Government with bathing ghats, flights of steps, etc., etc. The Member finally prayed that one of the vacant buildings within the fort might be given to the Municipality to locate its office.

Dewan's reply.—Such small works as the construction of a flight of steps to a tank should be attended to by the Municipal Council itself.

Member.—Now the income from the Municipality is only Rs. 6,000 and odd, though we have imposed all possible taxes. We have, therefore, not enough funds.

Dewan.—I do not want you to impose any more taxes. You ought to be able to increase your income from non-tax sources. Is there a cart-stand in the town? No. You ought to start profitable institutions like that.

You want Government to demolish the fort and open broader gateways. That is a very big work. I admit that that cannot be done by the Municipality. I have seen the fort. I agree with you in thinking that the ill-health of the locality is probably due to want of free air, on account of the obstruction of the fort walls. But to break open the fort is no easy task.

As regards the Velimalai hills, portions of which have already been registered, what could we do now? We can only stop the further registry of lands there. You did not object when the lands were registered. It is out of the question to acquire the lands already assigned. As regards the public offices, I have called for a report. You want a building for the Municipal office. The portion of the Palace which was formerly occupied by the Peishkar's office may be used for the Municipal office and I remember to have told the President so personally.

90. Revision of Town limits.

Mr. V. P. Sivasankara Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara) represented that several portions of the town of Neyyattinkara were non-urban in character and derived little or no advantage from municipal administration, and that it was hard that they should be called upon to contribute regularly to municipal funds, while other places lying very close to municipal limits could be included in the town with advantage to the inhabitants of those places and to the better management of the Municipality. Under the latter category came the Aralummud market which was only about two miles away from the place where the public offices were situated and which might be included within the town limits, as the place was a crowded locality with a number of houses and shops, besides two flourishing markets. The income from the markets now went to swell the pockets of private individuals. By bringing the place between the Aralummudu market and the Kuttappana bridge under the jurisdiction of the Municipality the revenue of the Municipal Council to which the Government grant had been recently reduced could be enhanced and the sanitation of that congested locality could be improved and maintained properly. At present, the Municipal Council found it very difficult to make both ends meet. The Member, therefore, urged alike on financial and sanitary grounds that the place between Aralummudu market and the Kuttappana bridge should be added to the Municipal town of Neyyattinkara.

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Dewan's reply.—There is a good deal of force in what you say. If you are to continue to exist as a Municipal Council, you must be in a position to raise more revenue. I shall inspect the two places that you have mentioned as soon as possible, and see whether it is expedient to include them within the town of Neyyattinkara. When the Village Panchayat Bill becomes law, it will be the occasion for you to consider and decide whether you should continue to be a Municipal Council or whether you should elect to become a Panchayat.

91. Needs of the Trivandrum Municipality.

Mr. N. K. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Trivandrum) pointed out the many-sided importance of the Trivandrum Municipality and dwelt on some of the crying needs of the town such as the dust problem. He first spoke on the urgent necessity of widening the town roads and observed that, in view of the increasing traffic in the town, those roads would have to be widened, and that, if the Government postponed it, they would be obliged to spend larger sums on land acquisition, etc., later on, as the price of land was increasing day by day. The roads which demanded the immediate attention of the Government were the Chalai road and the road from the College junction to Bhaktivilas. The narrow and insanitary condition of the lanes in Chettikulangara, Rishimangalam, and near the Mint also called for consideration. The Member next pointed out that several tanks in the town were centres of infection and cesspools of disease. The only way out of the difficulty was to have a copious supply of water both for drinking and other purposes. The Member, therefore, urged the extreme desirability of bringing into fruition the water supply scheme prepared by the late Mr. Hrishikesh Banerji and which was now engaging the attention of the Government.

He then complained of the insanitary and unsatisfactory condition of the present drainage system of the town and said that the dual control over the drains by the D. P. W. and the Municipality made matters even worse.

The Member next spoke on the congestion of population and the allied problem of infectious diseases. As a remedy for the former he suggested the laying out of small parks and open spaces in the city and the shifting of some of the offices to different parts of the town, while as a preventive measure against small-pox he urged that vaccination should be made compulsory and that a good hospital should be provided for treating infectious and contagious diseases.

The Member then urged, for the consideration of Government, the desirability of prohibiting cow-killing in the town and the necessity of preventing drunken brawls in the streets at night, by the efficient enforcement of the Excise Rules.

In conclusion, the Member advocated greater powers being conferred on the Municipality and dwelt at length on the necessity and desirability of allowing the Trivandrum Municipality the privilege of electing a non-official President.

Dewan's reply to subjects Nos. 88 and 91.—The ground covered by both of you in regard to local wants is more or less identical. Mr. Parameswaran Pillai has covered some additional ground. I was watching attentively to see whether either of you would say something practicable in regard to the financial aspect of the various suggestions you have made for remedying the needs of the Trivandrum Municipality which you have brought to notice ; but neither of you has touched on that point. I am sorry I have to repeat the answer which I gave last year to a similar representation. I join issue with you in your attitude that the responsibility of the Municipal Council ends with pointing out defects and criticising Government for not removing them. Defects there are and in plenty. Even the best-regulated Municipal town in the world is not without its defects. I grant that there are very many defects in Trivandrum which cry for a remedy. But does the responsibility of the Municipal Council merely end with pointing out these defects and telling Government "spend money, spend more money and remove all these defects"? Is it not the duty of the Municipal Council as much as that of the Government, to examine the financial aspect and to say how best we could remedy these defects? I would

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